GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2417
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
EXPENDITURE FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG in its Report 3 of 1998, Union government (Civil) Performance Appraisals has brought out many startling revelations including meetings excess expenditure of hundreds of crores of rupees in supply of unsafe drinking water to the rural population, misappropriation of fund/stores and purchase in excess of requirements, etc.

(b) if so, whether the government have looked into those matters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (d): The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (No.3 of 1998) for the yearended 31st March, 1997, Chapter-VI which reviews the implementation of National Drinking water Missionduring the period 1992-97 for all states except Madhya Pradesh, was presented in Parliament on 11th June,1998. The Report, interalia, has observed that 17 State Governments met excess expenditure of Rs.348.43 crore from Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme funds. .Rural Water Supply is a State subject and drinking water facilities to rural habitations are provided under the State Sector funds. The Central Government endeavourto supplement the efforts of the States by providing assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programmes rest with the State Governments.

The Action Taken Report on the observations concerning each State was obtained. The reports received indicate that all the concerned States have taken remedial action in respect of most of the observations contained in the CAG Report. The Action Taken Note, based on the information thus compiled, was got vetted by the Principal Director of Audit, New Delhi and submitted to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Branch on 22nd June, 1999 through the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (Monitoring Cell).

Excess amount irregularly met from Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme funds was recovered from Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme funds released to the following states:

S.No. Name of State Amount Recovered from ARWSP funds during

1. Gujarat Rs.631.50 lakhs from 2nd instalment of 1997-98

2. Karnataka Rs.193 lakhs from 2nd instalmement of 1998-99

3. Orissa Rs.150.62 lakhs from 1st instalment of 1998-99

4. Punjab Rs.257 lakhs from 2nd instalment of 1997-98 and 1st instalment of 1998-99

5. Rajasthan Rs.1040.91 lakhs from 2nd instalment of 1997-98

6. Sikkim Rs.32.88 lakhs from 1st instalment of 1998-99

7. Tamil Nadu Rs.246.08 lakhs from 2nd instalment of 1997-98

8. Uttar Pradesh Rs.2455 lakhs from 2nd instalment of 1997-98

9. West Bengal Rs.1673.09 lakhs from 1st instalment of 1998-99

Total Rs.6680.08 lakhs